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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who protects us like a mighty fortress, thank You for providing our lawmakers with Your wisdom, guidance, and strength. Lord, continue to bless them, for You know their needs, motives, hopes, and fears. When our Senators grow faint and weary and the night overtakes them, renew their strength and enable them to soar on wings like eagles. May the different approaches expressed by both parties contribute to greater solutions to the problems in our Nation and world.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 30, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN W.

HICKENLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. HICKENLOOPER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4350, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4350) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reed/Inhofe Modified Amendment No. 3867, in the nature of a substitute.

Reed Amendment No. 4775 (to Amendment No. 3867), to modify effective dates relating to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration and the Service Acquisition Executive of the Department of the Air Force for Space Systems and Programs.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

H.R. 4350

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, after spending—this is on NDAA. After

spending months insisting that the Senate should take swift action on our annual Defense bill, last night, Republicans mounted a partisan filibuster, blocking this Chamber from moving forward on the NDAA.

For the information of all, before the vote closed last night, I changed my vote to “no” and then entered a motion to reconsider the cloture vote so we could find a path forward on this important bill.

Now, we have heard over and over and over again from Republicans, in some form or another, that the Senate must act on NDAA and must act quickly. One Republican colleague called it a core duty, a bare minimum. Yet another colleague said it was “the best way to thank our soldiers and sailors for their service.”

But, last evening, Republicans blocked legislation to support our troops, support their families, keep Americans safe, and support jobs across the entire country. Republican dysfunction has again derailed even bipartisan progress on our annual defense bill—an outrageous outcome that shows how the Senate and Republican leadership have changed in recent years.

Previous leaders, knowing that Democrats had offered Republicans a whole lot of amendments, would have said: “Let’s vote cloture”—but not this leader, not yet.

And there should be no mistake: The process that Democrats, and particularly my colleague Chairman REED, have offered Republicans on NDAA has been more than fair and reasonable. For months, my colleagues in the Armed Services Committee have been working to produce a bipartisan product that could come to the floor for a vote.

The bipartisan Reed-Inhofe agreement—a Reed-Inhofe agreement—was what we brought to the floor yesterday to vote on.

During the markup, Members considered 321 amendments and adopted 143

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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